

What is claimed is:

1. A material comprising:

PTFE having a node and fibril microstructure; and
a surface having a number of node clusters and gnarled nodes
situated between the node clusters.

2. A material comprising:

PTFE having a node and fibril microstructure;
a textured pattern having multiple ridges and valley surfaces;
the ridges comprised of node clusters; and
the valley surfaces having gnarled nodes protruding therefrom.

3. A material according to claim 2 wherein

at least one gnarled node has a protruding length measured from
a valley surface;
the gnarled node is adjacent to a ridge having a height;
the gnarled node protruding length is greater than the height of
the adjacent ridge; and
the gnarled node is substantially devoid of fibrils along the
protruding length.

4. A material according to claim 2 wherein

a gnarled node has a longitudinal axis and a protruding length
measured from the valley surface;
the longitudinal axis has at least two angular deflection points;
and
the gnarled node is substantially devoid of fibrils along the
protruding length.

5. A material according to claim 2 wherein the multiple ridges are
substantially parallel to each other.

6. A material according to claim 2 wherein

the material is a sheet having two opposing surfaces; and
one opposing surface has multiple ridges and valleys.

7. A material according to claim 2 wherein

the material is a sheet having two opposing surfaces; and
two opposing surfaces have multiple ridges and valleys.

8. A process for modifying a material surface, comprising the steps of:

a) providing an expanded PTFE material having a surface
comprised of nodes and fibrils, the fibrils having lengths; and

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10/3. (amended) A material according to claim 2 wherein
at least one gnarled node has a protruding length measured from a valley surface;
the gnarled node is adjacent to a ridge having a height; and
the gnarled node protruding length is greater than the height of the adjacent ridge.

11/4. (amended) A material according to claim 2 wherein
a gnarled node has a longitudinal axis and a protruding length measured from the
valley surface; and
the longitudinal axis has at least two angular deflection points.

12/10. (amended) A material comprising:
at least one node having a protruding length measured from a valley surface, the at
least one node being substantially devoid of fibrils along its protruding length;
the at least one node being adjacent to a ridge having a height; and
the protruding length of the node being greater than the height of the adjacent ridge.

Please add claims 12 through 27 as follows:

2/12. A material according to claim 1 wherein
at least one gnarled node has a protruding length measured from a valley surface;
the gnarled node is adjacent to a ridge having a height; and
the gnarled node protruding length is greater than the height of the adjacent ridge.

3/13. A material according to claim 1 wherein
the gnarled node has a longitudinal axis and a protruding length measured from the
valley surface; and
the longitudinal axis has at least two angular deflection points.

4/14. A material according to claim 1 wherein
said surface comprises a textured pattern having multiple ridges; and
the multiple ridges are substantially parallel to each other.

5/15. A material according to claim 1 wherein
the material is a sheet having two opposing surfaces; and
one opposing surface has multiple ridges and valleys.

6/16. A material according to claim 1 wherein

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the material is a sheet having two opposing surfaces; and

the two opposing surfaces have multiple ridges and valleys.

17. A material according to claim 1 wherein the material comprises an implantable medical device.

18. A material according to claim 17 wherein the material comprises an implantable sheet.

19. A material according to claim 2 wherein the material comprises an implantable medical device.

20. A material according to claim 19 wherein the material comprises an implantable sheet.

21. A material according to claim 10 wherein
the surface comprises a PTFE having a node and fibril microstructure; and
the surface has a number of node clusters, said node clusters comprising multiple nodes interconnected by fibrils, and the at least one node having a protruding length is situated between the node clusters.

22. A material according to claim 10 wherein
the at least one node having a protruding length node has a longitudinal axis; and
the longitudinal axis has at least two angular deflection points.

23. A material according to claim 10 wherein
the material includes a surface having a textured pattern having multiple ridges; and
the multiple ridges are substantially parallel to each other.

24. A material according to claim 10 wherein
the material is a sheet having two opposing surfaces; and
one opposing surface has multiple ridges and valleys.

25. A material according to claim 10 wherein
the material is a sheet having two opposing surfaces; and
the two opposing surfaces have multiple ridges and valleys.

26. A material according to claim 10 wherein the material comprises an implantable medical device.

27. A material according to claim 28 wherein the material comprises an implantable sheet.

Claims 8, 9 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice.